



Security Council

Distr.: General
5 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to convey to the Security Council the position of the Government of Japan concerning recent developments in Myanmar (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yukio Takasu
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Position of the Government of Japan concerning recent developments in Myanmar

The Government of Japan has been calling on the Government of Myanmar to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from the use of oppressive force as regards the protests in Myanmar. It is extremely regrettable that despite such a démarche, the authorities of Myanmar used force against the peaceful demonstrators, which brought about casualties, including the death of a Japanese citizen.

We call upon the Government of Myanmar not to exercise oppressive force. We also call upon the Government of Myanmar to immediately release all those arrested and detained as a result of the recent peaceful demonstrations.

We hope that the Government of Myanmar will promote democratization, taking sincerely into account the wishes expressed in the protests by the people of Myanmar, engage in national dialogue with a view to achieving national reconciliation, and hence resolve the situation fundamentally and peacefully.

On 28 September, Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahiko Koumura met with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and directly addressed the above points.

Japan also dispatched Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mitoji Yabunaka to Myanmar over the weekend to bring the same message to the authorities of Myanmar: exercise self-restraint towards the peaceful demonstration, and release all political prisoners and detained activists, as well as enter into a dialogue with all parties concerned including Madame Aung San Suu Kyi. Japan had been previously asked by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Eight who gathered in New York in September to deliver such a message to Myanmar. Deputy Foreign Minister Yabunaka also lodged a protest against the regrettable death of a Japanese citizen and demanded that a thorough investigation be conducted by the authorities of Myanmar.

The acceptance of the visit of Mr. Gambari by the Government of Myanmar itself was a welcome move. We feel, however, that Myanmar has not responded fully to the concern of the international community. We strongly call on the Government of Myanmar to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General's good offices efforts, to work closely with Mr. Gambari, and to respond sincerely to the aforementioned concern, as also requested in the resolution adopted by consensus by the Human Rights Council.

Japan is ready to act constructively in close cooperation with the Secretary-General and Mr. Gambari as well as other interested countries, particularly those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the countries in the region, to stabilize the situation in Myanmar and to help resolve the issues through dialogue without preconditions between and among the parties concerned in Myanmar.